

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



March 2016

*We provide professional, efficient services to create a lifetime positive difference for our Community.*

## Transportation System Funding

The City of Mount Vernon Public Works Department's Street Operations Division is responsible for maintaining streets, and the storm drain and sanitary sewer collection systems of the City. Specifically:

- 274 lane miles of streets
- 150 miles of sidewalks
- 5000 signs
- 31 traffic signals
- 12 bridge inspections
- 2500 pavement markings



In addition to the items listed above, the Operations crew are responsible for ditch maintenance, alley grading, crack sealing, flood fighting, and inclement weather response. These crews are BUSY!

The City of Mount Vernon has historically funded our street maintenance program every year with revenue from real estate excise tax (REET) which fluctuates based on the economy. In 2016, we budgeted \$460,000 for pavement projects. Our Public Works engineers work diligently to track and monitor the condition of our pavement – recommending projects each year to the City Council within the projected REET revenues. Unfortunately this revenue stream is proving to be insufficient to keep pace with basic maintenance and preservation. Staff is recommending a minimum investment of close to \$1 million per year just to keep up on maintenance projects. This recommendation does not include funding for new capital expenses such as intersection upgrades or new roads.



Staff has been discussing revenue options with City Council – to include the idea of a Transportation Benefit District (TBD). Cities such as Anacortes, Sedro-Woolley, Marysville, and 44 other cities in our state have created a TBD. Funding comes from two options: an additional fee added to vehicle registrations that comes directly to the City and is solely dedicated to street maintenance OR a voted .01% increase to sales tax that is solely dedicated to street maintenance. As an example: If the City imposed a \$20 fee for each vehicle registered in the City – approximately \$498,000 would be collected to fund basic maintenance of our roads. This revenue would be IN ADDITION to what the City already dedicates.

We need your input! Please consider attending a Transportation Open House on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 6:30pm at the Police/Court Campus, 1805 Continental Place. The Mayor, City Councilmembers, and staff will be on hand to share our needs and listen to the concerns of our residents.

### Mayor's Coffee Hour

**Friday, March 18, 9:00 - 10:00 am**  
Home Trust of Skagit  
612 S. 1st Street

**Saturday, March 26, 10:00 - 11:00 am**  
Fire Station 3  
4701 E. Division Street



Thank you to our downtown businesses for beautifying the area with their Spring planters

## Skagit Valley Tulip Festival

April 1-30  
[www.tulipfestival.org](http://www.tulipfestival.org)

## Library Spring Book Sale

Friday, April 15, 3-6pm  
 Saturday, April 16, 10am-4pm  
 Fire Station 1, 901 S. 2nd Street

Come support the Friends of the Mount Vernon Library at their semi-annual book sale.

## Downtown Mount Vernon Tulip Festival Street Fair

April 15-17  
 S. 1st Street  
 Fri & Sat 10am-6pm  
 Sun 10am-5pm

32nd Annual Tulip Festival Street Fair, presented by the Mount Vernon Downtown Association. Hundreds of juried arts and crafts vendors, delicious food court offerings, live entertainment and fun for the whole family.

Your patience and kindness related to traffic is appreciated during this time!

## Kiwanis Salmon Barbecue

April 2-24, 11am-7pm  
 Hillcrest Lodge, 1717 S. 13th Street

Wild salmon barbecued over Alder with baked potato, slaw, garlic bread and ice cream. Two serving sizes - \$12 or \$15.

## Mayor Jill Boudreau

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## Project Development Manager Peter Donovan



I'm very pleased to announce that Peter Donovan joined my staff as Project Development Manager on March 7th. Peter comes to the City of Mount Vernon with a background in non-profit management. He served as the executive director for Love INC of Skagit County for eight years, and has spent the past three years as the development director with Bellingham Technical College Foundation.

Peter and his wife Janna are lifelong Skagitonians, and both graduated from Washington State University before moving back to Mount Vernon, where they have lived since 2001. The Donovans currently live in the West Hill neighborhood, and have three children ages 3, 13 and 16.

Peter said that he feels fortunate to serve the City that his family calls home. "I am thrilled to be a part of such a remarkable team of specialists who are continuing to transform this city into one of the most exciting places live, work, play and do business," he said. "So many positive changes are taking place in our town, and there are so many unique renovations still to come; as we continue to progress from being a city that *responds* to change, to becoming an innovative city that *pioneers* the very changes that will continue to set us apart, and will create for our community a sense of pride and partnership for generations to come."

## Cleveland Pocket Park Improvements

The City continues making progress on First Impression initiatives, most recently at the Cleveland pocket park. The Street Operations crew built a retaining wall terrace to clean up the area and prevent trespassing. Also included in the improvements was the removal of old bollards and installation of vinyl coated chain link fence. All this was inspired by our Tulip Valley Gardeners volunteer group.



Before



After

## Shop Local - This is YOUR Downtown

Local downtown culture...**preserves our collective story while giving new meaning and purpose to the historic built environment.**

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 Get Involved! Find more info at:

[www.mountvernondowntown.org](http://www.mountvernondowntown.org)

Card design and original art by Bike to Work, LLC  
[bkwrk.com/shop-local](http://bkwrk.com/shop-local)

